

OREM CITY COUNCIL/ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
56 North State, Orem, Utah
January 14, 2015

This meeting was for discussion purposes only. No official action was taken.

CONDUCTING	Mayor Richard F. Brunst, Jr.
OREM ELECTED OFFICIALS	Councilmembers Margaret Black, Tom Macdonald, Mark E. Seastrand, and Brent Sumner
OREM STAFF	Jamie Davison, City Manager; Brenn Bybee, Assistant City Manager; Stephen Downs, Assistant to the City Manager; Karl Hirst, Recreation Director; Chris Tschirki, Public Works Director; Keith Larsen, Traffic Operation Engineer; Paul Goodrich, Transportation Engineer; and Jackie Lambert, Deputy City Recorder
ALPINE BOARD OF EDUCATION	John Burton, Paula Hill, JoDee Sundberg, and Deborah Taylor
ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMIN.	Vern Henshaw, Superintendent; Rob Smith, Assistant Superintendent
ABSENT	Councilmembers Hans Andersen and David Spencer
INVOCATION	Councilmember Mark E. Seastrand

Mayor Brunst called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. He gave a brief update of some of the projects that were underway in Orem, and thanked the Alpine School District for working with the City on the University Place CDA.

Items of Common Interest

DISCUSSION – Hawk Signal near Canyon View Jr. High and Orchard Elementary

Mayor Brunst invited Chris Tschirki, Public Works Director, to present information regarding a proposed hawk signal near Canyon View Junior High and Orchard Elementary. Mr. Tschirki introduced Keith Larsen, Traffic Operation Engineer, and Paul Goodrich, Transportation Engineer.

Mr. Tschirki said that, since the last discussion on the hawk signal, a study had been conducted at the crossings to evaluate if a hawk signal was warranted. There were currently three crossings,

one with a crossing guard present nearest the elementary school. Two studies were conducted in the morning from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. and from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m., and three studies were conducted in the afternoon from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Warrant studies looked at factors like how many pedestrians were crossing that location at a given time, the speed of the street, and width of the street.

Mr. Macdonald asked about speed used in the analysis, if it was at 35 or 20 miles an hour. Mr. Larsen said the speed would need to be measured by the free flow speed of 35 miles an hour.

Mr. Tschirki said the afternoon studies showed the north crossing in front of Orchard Elementary met warrants for a hawk signal. The crossing in front of Canyon View never met warrants for a hawk signal during either the morning or afternoon. When crossings were combined they warranted a hawk signal.

Ms. Sundberg asked for clarification of what a hawk signal was, and why it was being proposed. Mr. Tschirki provided information on hawk signals and said the proposal was in response to feedback from PTA that had requested hawk signals. Mr. Larsen noted that a hawk signal was a dark signal until a pedestrian pushed the button and activated the crossing. Cars could ignore the signal unless there were lights flashing.

Mayor Brunst asked how successful the hawk signals by UVU had been. Mr. Larsen said they worked well, and that it worked toward the safety of both pedestrians and drivers.

Mr. Tschirki said that, based on the study results, the staff was recommending to remove crosswalks and reduced speed school zones to install a hawk signal for a combined crossing at 1000 North 800 East. That was about halfway between both schools, and would consolidate crossings for both. Reduced speed signs and the crossing guard would be moved to the location of the hawk signal.

Mrs. Black asked if the crosswalk at 950 North would be removed. Mr. Tschirki said all crosswalks on 800 East would be removed and consolidated at the proposed 1000 North 800 East crossing, but the crossing at 950 North would stay in place. The drop-off zones in front of Orchard Elementary would also stay in place.

Mr. Macdonald said it was unlikely that the students would cross the consolidated hawk crossing but were more likely to jaywalk across the street at the points where the crosswalks were currently placed.

Dr. Henshaw and other board members expressed concern that the students would not be willing to walk down to the signal, and it would result in the hawk signal being underutilized. The study showed what should happen, but more likely the students would continue to cross wherever they wanted.

Mr. Goodrich said the principals and other administrators from the school would need to be part of the discussion of where things should be and what would be the most effective in keeping students safe.

Mayor Brunst said parents should also have input. Mr. Davidson said parent input was valuable, but they would not know state requirements, traffic liability laws, etc. that the City would be bound by.

Mr. Burton asked about the possibility of flashing yellow signals at both crosswalks.

Mr. Goodrich said the rapid flashing beacon was not a stop requirement, and therefore not as compliant as a hawk signal would be. Mr. Larsen added there could not be two reduced speed zones within 600 feet of each other.

Mr. Bybee clarified that the request for a hawk signal was from Canyon View Junior High PTA, not the elementary school. Mr. Goodrich added that, if the hawk signal was installed, more students might walk to school as parents would feel safer about the crossing which would increase foot traffic.

Mr. Smith said he had reached out to the administration at both schools and would come back with additional information.

Mayor Brunst said this was an important topic to be discussed.

DISCUSSION – Mass Transit and BRT

At the request of Mrs. Sundberg, Mayor Brunst provided information from a recent meeting of the Utah County Commissioners on the subject of mass transit and BRT.

Thanks – Orem Administrators

Mrs. Sundberg said the administrators in the Orem area had done an outstanding job, several of whom had received awards, such as Administrator of the Year. Peter Glahn, assistant principal at Mountain View High School, was named Assistant Principal of the Year.

Set Date and Time for Next

The next meeting was scheduled for February 25, 2015, at noon in Orem.

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Donna R. Weaver, City Recorder

Approved: February 10, 2015